

V. REMARKS

Claims 1 -7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Okada (WO 01/08146). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The United States Patent and Trademark Office's understanding about the claimed invention of the present application and the disclosure of Okada of the cited reference is incorrect.

The second and third tapered surfaces (5) as parts of the inner peripheral surface of the cylindrical shaped bearing of Okada do not support the shaft as clearly known from the specification and drawings of Okada. That is, the second and third tapered surfaces (5) of Okada are not parts of an inner peripheral surface for supporting thereon the shaft.

On the other hand, the second and third tapered surfaces of the claimed invention of the present application are parts of the inner peripheral surface for supporting thereon the shaft as clearly recited in claim 1 of the present application. That is, the second and third tapered surfaces supports the shaft thereon as clearly shown in Fig. 1 of the present application.

Therefore, the tapered surfaces (5) of Okada for enabling the shaft to be inclined with respect to an axis of the central non-tapered surface while keeping a support of the shaft on the central non-tapered surface and preventing the shaft from being supported by the tapered surfaces (5) are clearly different from the second and third tapered surfaces of the claimed invention of the present application for supporting the shaft thereon.

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as in definite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claimed the subject matter of the invention. Claim 1 is amended by deleting "gradually". Also, a distance taken perpendicular to the side surface is not an unclear recitation, because as shown in Modified Fig. 1 enclosed herewith, and a distance in a certain direction may be formed between side surfaces prevented from facing to or overlapping each other in the certain direction.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 6 and 7 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being substantial duplicates of claim 4. It is respectfully submitted that the tangential line is an imaginary line, and the surface is an actual matter, and the imaginary line and the actual matter are not the identical matter. Therefore, "The tangent of a linear surface, is the linear surface it self." as recited in the first paragraph of the outstanding office action is incorrect.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83 (a). The tangential line exists on each of the curved surface and the planer surface, so that the tangential line as recited in claims 6 and 7 do not need to exist only on the curved surface. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the curved side surface does not need to be shown in the drawing of the present application.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Also, claim 8 includes features not shown in the applied art.

Further, Applicants assert that there are also reasons other than those set forth above why the pending claims are patentable. Applicants hereby reserve the right to submit those other reasons and to argue for the patentability of claims not explicitly addressed herein in future papers.

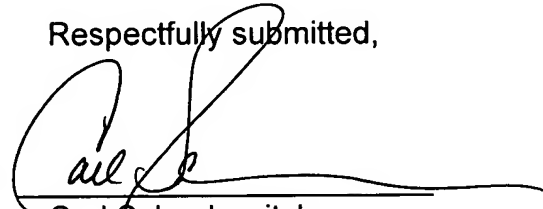
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure(s): Amendment Transmittal
Modified Fig. 1

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